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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/913,644	11/21/1997	KATHRYN J. HOFMANN	19424PC	7265

7590 04/07/2004

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EXAMINER

SALIMI, ALI REZA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1648

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

08/913,644

Applicant(s)

HOFMANN ET AL.

Examiner

A R Salimi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2004.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 11-17 and 20 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 11-14 and 20 is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 1997 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Response to Amendment***

This is a response to the amendment filed 03/08/2004. Claims 4, 11-17, and 20 are pending before the examiner.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

***Oath/Declaration***

Applicants offer to correct the defective Oath in the paper filed 03/08/2004 is noted. However, the concern raise as before would remain on the record until such time where the new Oath is submitted and accepted.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 15, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for reasons of record advanced in the previous Office Action mailed 12/4/2003. Applicant argues that the office fails to cite a specific regulation that mandates the claims reciting the term "comprising" contain more than one element. Applicant's argument as part of amendment filed 3/8/2004 has been considered fully, but they are not persuasive. At the onset Applicants are reminded that the authority for what Office stated comes from the statutory language, which recites the claims, should "particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter" and this is far more authoritative than M.P.E.P guidelines. Second, the claim is directed to a therapeutic "vaccine" which is interpreted to induce protection against human papillomavirus type 18. Now each and every element of that

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“vaccine” should be “distinctly, and clearly” stated. If the exact boundaries of the “vaccine composition” are not known then one of skill in the art cannot know what is/are in the composition that induces the protective efficacy for which Applicants have received patent protection. As of now the claim is wide open to include anything and everything which may or may not induce protection which when one looks at the disclosure would not be able to determine the exact boundaries of the claimed invention. Hence, since the claimed invention does not “particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter” the claims are vague and indefinite. The rejection is respectfully maintained.

Claims 4, 11-14, and 20 are allowed.

### *Conclusion*

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. R. Salimi whose telephone number is (571) 272-0909. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 Am to 6:00 Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel, can be reached on (571) 272-0902. The Official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

A. R. Salimi

4/6/2004

ALI R. SALIMI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER